



rEal News

Recognizing The May Court Club of London

Willy Van Klooster

There are few ***Friends of Vanier*** that are more important than the May Court Club of London which, this year, celebrates its 75th Anniversary in our community. The Club donated \$50,000 in 1965 to help found Madame Vanier Children's Services. When the current centre was built on Trafalgar Street in 1972, a further \$50,000 was donated. Throughout the years, over \$100,000 in further donations have come from the Club to support various programs. In addition, it has throughout the 44 years of Vanier's history, always had a representative on our Board of Directors.

To recognize these extraordinary contributions, Vanier announced at our Annual Celebration and AGM in June the establishment of the *May Court Club Award of Excellence in Children's Mental Health*. The first award will be given to an individual or group in the spring of 2010.



Contents

The May Court Club of London	1
The Totten Group Gives	2
Vanier Breakfast	2
Awareness Raising Campaign	3
Planned Gift	3
Penguin Books Donation	3
Roots & Wings Recipients	4
Contact Us	4
Supporting Vanier	5



Totten Gives – *Rose Najim*



Totten Group Insurance has a program called “Totten Gives”. They wanted to tap into the employee’s creativity, passion and connection to the community in a meaningful and rewarding experience. Totten Insurance decided to build bicycles for children between the ages of 8 to 10

years and donate them to needy families. I heard of this project and asked if Vanier could be a recipient of the donation as we have several children who can benefit from this project. Shirley Evers forwarded Vanier’s name to her work place and we were chosen as the appropriate site for the donation in London, Ontario.

“Vanier Gets It”

Vanier Breakfast Report – *Sue Giles*

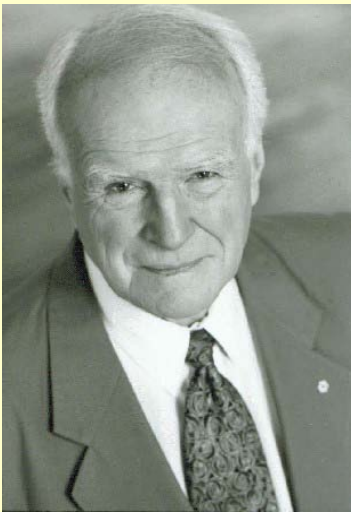
On September 30, 2009, Vanier held its 2nd Annual Breakfast at the Four Points Sheraton. After many years as one of the world’s leading researchers, Dr. Fraser Mustard turned his focus to children and the crucial importance of a child’s experiences in the first six years of life. It was a privilege to have Dr. Mustard as our speaker.

HOPE was the first agency-based parent program in Ontario. It began in September 2000 thanks to a generous grant from the London Community Foundation that supported the development of the program through its first two years. Since then, the program has been financed through generous donations from other organizations including The May Court Club of London. All proceeds from the breakfast will provide ongoing support to this important initiative - a unique program run by parents for parents whose children have emotional and behavioural problems.

They next day, we received this message from Willy Van Klooster, our Executive Director, who was attending another presentation:

Vanier Team: I have just come out of a meeting of the city’s Child and Youth Network. About 120 people were present. Dr. Charles Pascal (who just wrote his report on All-Day learning and other recommendations related to early development) was the guest speaker. Early in his talk he asked “Is Willy here?” I put up my hand. He asked “who did Vanier host yesterday?” I said “Dr. Fraser Mustard”. He said “Fraser called me yesterday afternoon to say I should look for you because Vanier gets it”. He then continued through the rest of his talk referencing Vanier several times. I wanted all of you to hear this. Congratulations to each of you for “getting it”.

One in five children and youth in Ontario struggles with his or her mental health.





Phase One of Vanier's Awareness Raising Campaign is underway!

Lesley Marriott

On October 1, 2009, Vanier launched three 30 second ads prepared for radio. These ads can be heard on FM 96 and Fresh FM radio stations.

Vanier unveiled the bus shelter campaign running for the months of October to December. These were placed at five strategically chosen bus stops. Each bus shelter features one of the emoticons along with a caption that reads "Your child's emotions and behaviours may be the sign of a bigger problem." The agency has created a postcard and posters using the same emoticon and with the help of Vanier employees, will be distributed to community schools, libraries, doctor's offices, community centres, etc.

We are off to a great start to inform the community that Vanier is here to help!



would love to have a shelf of books for the children to use. Secondly, because of our lack of a library, the school could use books, especially new and up to date ones. Third, many of our children have little they can call their own and more specifically, do not own a single book. Wouldn't it be nice if we could give each child a book or two when they left one of our intensive services? Willy communicated these ideas and the books started arriving...two boxes the next day then another and another and another! It was like Christmas...each box held wonderful classics, bright adventures and yes, vampire love stories. We sorted the books and distributed them to residence and school. In one of our residences a client quickly volunteered to become the librarian and developed a system for distributing and keeping track of the books. A voracious reader she was thrilled to find new reading material. One client, with few reading skills, was able to find a book he could actually read and then went on to read it to a younger child. It was a very exciting moment for him. The books have continued to arrive and the excitement continues. We are indeed fortunate to have found such a generous friend in Penguin Books!

Penguin Books Donation

— *Judy Jones*

Back in the summer, Willy told me he had an inquiry from Penguin Books. He and I met and we quickly identified three ways we could use the books. First, each of our residences



Planned Gift – Gary Wood

In July of 2009 Vanier was the recipient of a planned gift totaling \$180,000 thanks to the generosity of Lucille B. and Ramon C. We first met Ramon in 2006 when he visited Vanier with Andy Tesiorowski of London Life's Freedom 55 Financial. Lucille and Ramon were clients of Andy's and after Lucille passed away, Ramon sought Andy's advice about leaving a planned legacy to an organization who worked with children. Andy, a long time friend and supporter of Vanier, did not hesitate to recommend Vanier for consideration. In early 2009 Ramon passed away. In his will he instructed that the proceeds of a planned giving life insurance policy be bequeathed to Vanier to be used to "help our children". Plans for this generous donation include:

- Renovations and furnishings for our aging residences;
- Financial support for future fundraising campaigns and development of social entrepreneurship projects;
- An awareness raising campaign to better educate the residents of London and surrounding counties.

We are forever indebted to Lucille and Ramon for their kindness and generosity. Should you wish to learn more about planned giving or want further information about how you can help sustain Vanier's good work, please contact Gary Wood, Director of Finance & Administration. Gary can be reached at gwood@vanier.com or at 519-433-3101 ext.169.

Roots & Wings



Vanier Children's Services

871 Trafalgar Street
London, ON N5Z 1E6

Phone: 519.433.3101
Fax: 519.433.1302
askatvanier@vanier.com

Find us on the web!

www.vanier.com



Intake 24/7
519.433.0334

*If I could give you many things,
I'd give you gold and silver rings
Of knowledge that I've gained with years
The gift of smiling through the tears
Confidence, courage, determination,
Laughter and spirit and love of creation,
Wrapped up in a box with a bow, I'd give
To you these gifts to keep for as long as you live.*

*"If I could give you just two things,
One would be Roots, the other, Wings."
Roots, not to tie you to the ground,
But to guide you to where your fulfillment is found
The nourishing start, the firm foundation,
The source of your inner determination.
Wings to soar over obstacles, wings to fly free,
Wings to glide to the heights of the best you can be.
And when obstacles loom, from your Roots grows a
hand
Providing a strong, sturdy, safe place to land.
I'd choose these two things for the gifts that are best,
For with Roots and with Wings, you'll find all the rest!*
- Author Unknown

Vanier Children's Services has been honouring a 'Root' and 'Wing' since 2002. This year, during our Annual Celebration in June, our 'Wing' recipient was awarded to Anthony Villeneuve. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Tony faced a very chaotic childhood that led to his admission into residence at Vanier in 1976. For the past 33 years, Tony has maintained his links to Vanier through the strong friendships he established. We are very proud of Tony. Read more about [Tony](#).

We honoured Susan Hollyman as the 'Root'. Susan was elected President and Chair of the Vanier Board of Directors in 2001 after being a member on the Board for two years. Susan's style of leadership exudes commitment to mission, a sense of responsibility and a quiet but determined resolve to make things better for people. Vanier is very honoured to have had Susan as a Friend of Vanier. Read more about [Susan](#).

Supporting Vanier

Help our children reach their potential.

Every child in our community has the right to lead a safe, healthy and independent life. Your support helps us provide programs to children and families who need help.

Specialized programs like H.O.P.E. (**H**elping **O**ther **P**arents **E**xcel) is funded through the generous support of individuals and organizations in our community.

We need your help to develop new and to continue existing programs that help children and their families overcome the emotional, mental and behavioural challenges they face each and every day.

You can direct your donation to a specific program or contribute to Vanier's highest priority needs. Donations can be made through:

- One-time donation
- Monthly or annual pledge
- In-memoriam of a family member or friend
- Planned gift through London's Leave a Legacy
- Tribute gift in honour of a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary
- In-kind donations of toys, food vouchers or gift cards are always welcome.

Support Vanier Children's Services today and provide real help and real hope to children and families who need it most. With your helping hand, we can make a difference.

To learn more about Vanier Children's Services and planned giving, please contact Gary Wood 519.433.3101 x 169 or gwood@vanier.com

To make a donation to Vanier through Canadahelps.org, [click here](#).

Your support today provides real help and real hope to children and families who need it most.

With your helping hand, we can make a difference.

